

Welcome Post

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Welcome to the blog for the Student Engagement and Attendance Center (SEAC). SEAC's mission is to provide technical assistance (TA) support to State education agencies (SEAs) and local education agencies (LEAs) on issues related to chronic absenteeism and student engagement. We will use this blog series to discuss SEAC's work, highlight key takeaways from TA activities, and disseminate resources developed by SEAC staff. SEAC's goal is to reach a wide audience, so please feel free to forward our link to colleagues in your SEA, LEA, and other community partners who will benefit from resources related to chronic absenteeism and student engagement.

SEAC TA efforts cover a wide range of topics related to chronic absenteeism and student engagement. Throughout all its work, SEAC places a special emphasis on addressing issues of equity for diverse student populations. In the past year, these have included

- ▶ root causes for chronic absence;
- ▶ social determinants of health in K–12 populations;
- ▶ comprehensive approaches to attendance supports during the COVID-19 pandemic in a remote learning environment;
- ▶ options for [measuring school climate](#) while examining the disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students from specific communities;
- ▶ youth and family engagement; and
- ▶ incorporation of chronic absenteeism into a multitiered system of supports.

This year, SEAC is providing a variety of TA supports to its constituents that build on its previous efforts. SEAC is holding 10 Peer-to-Peer meetings of 7 state teams composed of SEAs and LEAs to discuss high-priority topics and provide opportunities for state teams to discuss problems of practice related to their work. Topics covered in this series include

- ▶ overview of the current state of attendance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- ▶ family and student engagement;
- ▶ attendance data collection and analysis; and
- ▶ trauma-informed social and emotional learning supports.

SEAC also convenes a Learning Series open to teams of SEA and LEA partners. This year, each Learning Series consists of three 1-hour meetings to enable a deep dive into the topics covered. The three series focus on integrating attendance into a multitiered system of supports, strategies to enhance student and family engagement policies and practices, and strategies to support nonpunitive practices to help address truancy.

SEAC also hosts national webinars and develops written TA for SEA and LEAs (please see “[Resources](#)” for current products). Its first webinar, held March 10, 2022, focused on an analysis of first semester attendance data and included presentations from [Connecticut](#) and [Ohio](#). Future TA activities will include resources and webinars related to applying principles of equity to address chronic absenteeism, strategies for using excused mental health days, and tools to strengthen family and youth engagement policies and practices. SEAC also offers just-in-time TA to SEAs on issues related to chronic absenteeism and student engagement. Please contact seacenter@insightpolicyresearch.com for additional information. Watch this space for updates on SEAC’s work every month!